



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Mayor Tom Barrett today released the following statement in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“On this, the 40th anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, our city should come together to honor a mortal man and an immortal dream. During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to create common ground where people from all walks of life can join together to resolve issues to help make us all free.

Working alongside people of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged all Americans to work together to strengthen communities, reduce poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all.

While that important work tirelessly continues to this day, his dream remains beyond our reach. Certainly, gains have been made. But far more needs to be accomplished.

Fortunately, hundreds of thousands of Americans dedicate their lives day in and day out to address the barriers that remain standing.

But for all of us here in Milwaukee, there is more work to be done – especially to reduce the violence that plagues some of our families and neighborhoods. We need to come together to bring Dr. King back into our lives and into our neighborhoods.

Dr. King lived under the constant threat of harm to him and to his family. His response was not violence. He rose above violence.

His response was to speak the truth, share his dreams, and march toward freedom. His response was to shine that bright light of truth on the shortcomings and injustices that work to prevent a true and democratic nation for us all.

We need to rekindle and strengthen that light. We need to keep marching toward that dream, using faith and hope to sustain our resolve. This great city of ours needs for all of us to stand together shoulder-to-shoulder.

We must all heed the words of Dr. King and accept nothing less than peace on our streets as well as peace throughout the world.”